

Dear members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to express my **strong opposition to S.B. 16 An Act Addressing Gun Violence and Juvenile Crime, and H.B. 5416 An Act Concerning the Bulk Purchases of Pistols and Revolvers**. These bills do not achieve the desired outcome. Reducing gun violence is something we all desire, however enacting laws that target law abiding citizens (and voters) is not the answer.

Though I have been around firearms throughout my life (from Boy Scouts on), I had never felt the need to own one until poorly constructed legislation made it easier for criminals to commit crimes, and harder for law enforcement and the judicial system to enact consequences for such actions. Such actions compelled me to obtain my permit and purchase firearms for defense of myself and my family.

To reduce crime the legislature should focus on measures that bring economic growth and opportunity for all citizens (and voters) equitably. When our young citizens have a choice between prospering through legitimate means or prospering through crime, they will always choose legitimate means. **Too many of our young underserved citizens don't have equal opportunity and are more easily recruited into, formal and informal, criminal groups.**

S.B. 16, and H.B. 5416 are nothing more than virtue signaling in an election year. The citizens have lost tolerance for these legislative games in which you legislate that in which you feel with get the best press. We have not hired you for good press, but for good results. We all want gun violence and other crime reduced in the state. **Please focus on economic development and punishing those who commit crimes rather than making criminals of law-abiding citizens.**

As a new firearm owner, I take the rights granted me by the U.S. Constitution and the Connecticut Constitution seriously by following safe practices, safe storage and responsible ownership. The firearm laws in the State of Connecticut are already some of the most stringent (and confusing) in the nation. The legislature has made is so that an innocent citizen can become a felon simply by making a wrong turn while responsibly and legally (constitutionally) carrying a firearm. Would you dare make other constitutional rights, such as voting, so difficult and frightening to navigate?

It is time the State of Connecticut fixes the poorly constructed firearm laws in the State of Connecticut. As such **I STRONGLY SUPPORT S.B. 388 An Act Concerning the Defense of a Person or a Person's Dwelling, Place of Work or Motor Vehicle , H.B. 5415 An Act Concerning the Transfer of Assault Weapons and Large Capacity Magazines, and H.B. 5412 An Act Concerning the Duty to Retreat in a Religious House of Worship, as responsible legislation that supports everyone's right to safety while also supporting the constitutional rights of firearm owners (citizens and voters).**

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